Ranking Tool Summary for FY2014 - Soil Quality Degradation-OM Depl, Compaction (Released 12/12/2013)

Description:
The Soil Quality Degradation - Organic Matter Depletion, compaction ranking tool is a statewide commitment to help producers accelerate efforts to improve soil quality in Nebraska. A maximum of 3 resource concerns can be identified for each practice selected. Practice numbers 329, 340, 328, 595 are the primary practices to address these resource concerns.
Land Uses:
Associated Agriculture Land, Crop, Farmstead, Forest, Pasture, Range
Efficiency Score:
Scoring Multiplier: 1.000
Optional Notes:
National Priorities:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.000 Questions:

Number	Question	Points		
1	a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250		
2	a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?			
2	b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d, etc.)?			
2	c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a "non-impaired water body"?	5		
3	a. Decrease aquifer overdraft?	15		
3	b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?			
3	c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5		
4	a. Meet on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15		
4	b. Reduce on-farm generated green house gases such as CO2 (Carbon Dioxide), CH4 (Methane), and N2O (Nitrous Oxide)?			
4	c. Increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	5		
5	a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	15		
5	b. Improve soil tilth, organic matter, structure, health, etc.?	5		
6	a. Benefit on-farm habitat associated with threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15		
6	b. Help retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	10		
7	a. Help manage or control noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10		
7	b. Increase, or improve habitat to benefit pollinator or other targeted wildlife species?	10		
7	c. Properly dispose of livestock carcasses?	5		
7	d. Are identified in an Integrated Pest Management plan?	10		
7	e. Are identified in a Nutrient Management plan?	10		
7	f. Apply principles of adaptive nutrient management?	5		
8	a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15		
8	b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with practices and improvements identified in an approved energy audit equivalent to criteria required in Ag EMP?	10		
8	c. Assist in implementing energy conservation measures that also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants?	10		
9	a. Implementation of all conservation practices scheduled in the contract on the CPA-1155 within three years of date of obligation?			
9	b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted?			
9	c. Implementation of practice(s) which will complete an existing conservation system or suite of practices?	5		
	Total Points	500		

State Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 1.130 Questions:

Sub- heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Nutrient Management on all cropland contract acres?	28
	2	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Nutrient Management on at least 50% of cropland contract acres?	14
	3	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in conversion from cropland to permanent perennial vegetation (wildlifeland, rangeland, pastureland) on all contract acres that were previously utilized as cropland?	43
	4	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in adequate treatment of all ephemeral and gully erosion control?	21
	5	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in improved soil quality through the implementation of a resource conserving crop rotation on at least 50% of the land in the contract? See CSP enhancement CCR99 for conserving crop rotation definition.	32
	6	Is the treatment you intend to implement identified in an current farm plan?	15
	7	Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including soil health practices such as cover crops (340), no-till (329), conservation crop rotation (328), nutrient management (590) and integrated pest management (595)?	36
	8	If installing terraces with waterways or underground outlets, the cropping system will allow the terraces to be constructed in the summer and a cover crop will be established on these terraces to control erosion until the next planting season (fall if going to wheat or next years spring crop).	25
	9	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the installation of Conservation Buffers (filter strips, field borders, or riparian forest buffers)?	26
	10	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wind and water erosion control to "T" on all cropland in the contract?	22
	11	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the use of variable rate technologies for nutrient application using computer controlled equipment that adjusts fertilizer application based on management zones or grids?	13
	12	If the applicant who is applying for EQIP is also a previous/present contract holder or has been associated with a contract, has the applicant ever had a contract out of compliance or modified to reschedule a practice without a meritorious reason? Meritorious reason examples include personal hardship, adverse weather conditions, etc.	-25
		Maximum Points: Total Points	250

Local Issues:

Scoring Multiplier: 0.800 Questions:

Sub- heading Number	Question Number	Question	Points
	1	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in application of a 100% continuous no-till cropping system on all cropland contract acres?	36
	2	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in application of a 100% continuous no-till cropping system on at least 50%, but less than 100% of cropland contract acres?	15
	3	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of cover crops on all cropland contract acres?	36
	4	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of cover crops on at least 50%, but less than 100% of cropland contract acres?	27
	5	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Pest Management on all cropland contract acres?	36
	6	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in the application of Pest Management on at least 50%, but less than 100% of cropland contract acres?	15
	7	Will the cover crop utilized on the offered acres be a multiple species cover crop?	38
	8	Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including all five of the soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 9 and 10.	60
	9	Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including three of the five soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 8 and 10.	40
	10	Will the treatment you intend to implement support the National Soil Health Initiative by including at at least one of the five soil health practices: 1) cover crops (340); 2) no-till (329); 3) conservation crop rotation (328); 4) nutrient management (590); and integrated pest management (595)? If yes do not answer questions 8 and 9.	20
	11	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in water runoff from all cropland being filtered with one or more of the following practices, Field Borders, Filter Strips, Riparian Forest Buffers, Riparian Herbaceous Cover, Grassed Waterway?	10

12	Does the applicant who is applying for EQIP qualify for Limited Resource?	14
13	Will a cover crop be utilized on at least 25 percent of the offered cropland acres? Do not answer if either question 3 or 4 was answered.	15
14	Will the treatment you intend to implement using EQIP result in wind and water erosion control to "T" on all cropland in the contract?	17
15	Will the cover crop utilized be grazed according to an approved grazing plan on cropland?	21
	Maximum Points: 400 Total Points	400